

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1669 without my signature.

In my signing message for AB 50 in 2006, I stated that the use of Restitution Funds for the San Francisco Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) should be considered a one-time appropriation. This appropriation was granted in order to provide time to identify alternate sources of funding for the TRC and other similar programs. The use of the Restitution Fund to replicate and fund programs of this type presents a significant concern to its ongoing ability to support the compensation of crime victims for which it was established.

While the model of service supported by this bill has proven effective at the TRC, the Restitution Fund is an inappropriate ongoing source of funding for this type of program. The Restitution Fund is the funding source of the Victim Compensation Program, which was designated to pay for certain out-of-pocket expenses to specific victims of crime. In contrast, the trauma centers that would be supported by this bill provide comprehensive services, which exceed out-of-pocket expenses, to individuals that are not restricted to victims of crime.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger